The Grand Account.

OR, A

REMONSTRANCE:

WHEREIN

Is plainly discovered the vast Sums of Money levied upon the Kingdome by Ordinance of Parliament, since the beginning of the late Warre: As also an Accompt of the disposall of the greatest part therof, for the service of the PARLIAMENT, &c.

ALSO

VOX POPULI:

OR,

The Cry of the Commons against Committee-men.

In all humility tendered unto the consideration of the Body Representative, now sitting in Parliament at *Westminster*.

Let him that stole, steale no more.

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with an appendix shewing a small part of it shared amongst themselues, for their good Services done to the Comonwelth

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OXFORD, Printed and published for the satisfaction of the Kingdome, 1647.

A Remonſtrance, or Grand accompt of the vaſt ſums of Money levyed upon the Kingdom, by vertue of ſeverall Ordinances of Parliament, ſince the beginning of the diſtractions in this Kingdom.

AMong many other grievances which we the Commons of *England* have for theſe late yeers lain under, this is not the leaſt; to wit, the great ſums of Money from time to time levyed upon us without any accompt given of the diſpoſall thereof. Now to the end that you may not alway be bound up in ignorance, but may at laſt be made ſenſible of the burthen, that not onely your ſelves, but the whole Kingdom hath groaned under; take this accompt as perfect as can by computation be gathered, being I beleeve (though in it ſelf large) yet much ſhort, in reſpect of thoſe vaſt ſums by them received of the free Commons of *England* to be by them diſpoſed and employed for the ſervice of the Publike, although contrarily (to the prejudice of the Kingdom) they have contracted great debts upon the Kingdom, and ſhared and divided the publike Stock amongſt them; they have empoveriſhed you, to enrich themſelves; and inſtead of being Stewards, they have made themſelves your Lords.

How can it be imaginable that (ſo long as ſuch large Fees are taken out of the common Store by Committee-men, and others intruſted) the Treaſury ſhould be other then empty? If the Stewards wages exceed his Lords Revenue, 'tis likely the Servant will be a better man then his Maſter: If the Speakers and their Clarks receive ſuch large Fees (as is very true, and ſhall be demonſtrated) I am very confident they may well be rich, but the Kingdom muſt of neceſſity be poor: neither need it be a wonder, they being paid ſo well, that the Army is paid no better: but I ſhall forbear, and onely proceed to the matter propoſed, touching the accompt, as followeth.

Compoſition-Money for Delinquents Eſtates.

The Fees of the two Speakers (and their Clarks) of the Lords

and Commons Houſe of Parliament, for Pardons of Delinquents, is thirty five pounds of every man, whoſe eſtate is one hundred pounds *per annum*, and upwards.

So that three men, at thirty five pounds a man, comes to one hundred and five pounds. Ten men at thirty five pounds a man, comes to three hundred and fifty pounds. One hundred men, at the ſame rate, comes to three thouſand five hundred pounds. One thouſand men at thirty five pounds a man, comes to thirty five thouſand pounds. Ten thouſand men ſo paying, (as all have, and muſt before they can have their Pardons) comes to three hundred and fifty thouſand pounds; which is thirty five Waggons loading of ſilver.

By Ordinance of Parliament, every Delinquent payes two yeers Revenue: as thus, He whoſe eſtate is a hundred pounds a yeer, payes two hundred pounds: and ſo proportionably.

As thus, Ten men, whoſe eſtates are betwixt one and two hundred pounds a yeer, their compoſition money comes to two thouſand pounds.

One hundred men whoſe eſtates are between one and two hundred pounds a yeer, every man paying two yeers Revenues, comes to twenty thouſand pounds.

One thouſand men ſo paying, comes to two hundred thouſand pounds.

Ten thouſand men ſo compounding, and paying, amounts to two Millions, and is twenty hundred thouſand pounds, being two hundred waggons loading of ſilver, every waggon loading being ten thouſand pounds in ſilver.

Now by the way, I beſeech you, conſider if there were no greater Compoſitions then theſe, nor any other way uſed to raiſe money; if the Speakers had leſſe Fees, and the ſummes ſo raiſed, were employed for the Kingdoms benefit: might not (thinke you) the Army have been as well paid, and the Kingdom as little in Debt as now it is? I humbly conceive that the Aſſociated Counties and the Roules in Chancery-lane, hath been pay enough for their good ſervice, it being yet inviſible, (for though they are ſure of our money, we have not ſo much as the publike Faith for their good ſervice, and which is worſe, it is to be feared never ſhall have, unleſſe it be Dennington-like.) But conſider your miſery further: If it be ſo

fleec'd

fleec'd at the first hand; surely 'tis flea'd before it gets through the Purgatory of Committee-men, Treasurers, and the like; (it must needs be pure silver, enduring such a fiery tryall.) but to proceed.

Divide ten thousand men in ten parts; as thus.

One thousand men Delinquents whose estates are betwixt one and two hundred pounds a yeer, every man paying but two hundred pound, two yeers Revennue, amounteth to two hundred thousand pound a yeer.

The second thousand men whose estates are betwixt two and three hundred pounds a yeer, paying two yeers Revennue, comes to four hundred thousand pound.

The third thousand of Compounders, whose estates are betwixt three and four hundred pound a yeer, and so paying, amounts to six hundred thousand pound.

The fourth thousand Compounders, whose estates are betwixt four and five hundred pound a yeer, payes eight hundred thousand pound.

The fifth thousand Compounders, whose estates are betwixt five and six hundred pound a yeer, payes ten hundred thousand pound, which is three hundred waggons loading of silver, every Waggon loading being ten thousand pound in silver.

The other five thousand Delinquents paying as the before mentioned five thousand Compounders amounts to eight Millions, that is eight hundred Waggons of silver, ten thousand pound being a Waggons loading, and is in all one Million, one thousand, thirty and five Waggons Loading of silver

Then consider, if one thousand men, whose estate is but betwixt 1, and 2. hundred pound, come to two hundred thousand pounds, at two yeers Revennue; how many hundred thousand pounds comes one thousand mens estates to, that have been sequestred for this five yeers: most of their estates being 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 900.l. and many of the said sequestred estates of the said one thousand Compounders, one, two, three, five, seven, yea nine thousand pound a yeer: yea some, ten twelve, fourteen, fifteen, yea sixteen thousand pound a yeer, if not more? All which cannot but be some Millions, as may be proved, which sequestration money if by them duely employed would have paid the Army, it being 435. Waggons loading of Silver.

All which is a maſſe of money, yet but a ſmall ſumme to the moneys brought in as followeth.

Firſt, Head-money.

Secondly, Plate lent upon the propoſitions.

Thirdly, Money rayſed for the Rebels Lands.

Fourthly, Money for the Weekely Meales, for a Meale for one day in the weeke.

Fifthly, Money lent upon Ordinances of Parliament.

Sixthly, Fifty Subſidies.

Seventhly, the Twenty, and Twenty and Fifth part of Land and Goods.

Eightly, Exciſe.

Ninthly, Cuſtomes.

Tenthly, Sequeſtration of all the Delinquents Lands, ſince the Warre began.

Eleventh, the Kings Revennue.

Twelfe, Money for Newcaſtle Coales.

Thirteen, Money rayſed for his Excellency of Houſe-keepers, and ſome other Commanders in the like nature; beſides plunderings, and what hath been taken going out of the Land, and to the King.

Laſtly, Monthly Taxes upon all the Lands in the Aſſociated Counties; which came to threeſcore thouſand pounds a moneth, and ſo given in, if not more, and by the yeer amounts to ſeven hundred and twenty thouſand pounds, and in five yeers comes to three Milions ſix hundred thouſand pounds, and is, three hundred and ſixty Waggons Loading of ſilver, at 10000.l. a waggons loading.

Yet for all theſe great ſums thus raiſed, ſuch is the want of moneys (as muſt be ſuppoſed) that the Biſhops lands muſt be ſold (for ſome hundred thouſand pounds) to pay the Arrears of both Armies, yet but in part.

If this be not ſeriouſly looked into, and taken into conſideration by the Soveraign, the people, (many of them now being ready to periſh) they muſt look to be greater ſufferers, by ſo much the more the exhauſters increaſe in riches, and they decay by poverty, through oppreſſion. And it is generally known we have no good commonwealths men, neither Judges, Lawyers, no nor thoſe from whom we expected the eſtabliſhment of good and wholeſome Lawes, who have ſufficient power ſo to do, and to have prevented all deceitfull

and corrupt dealings, were not the over-ruling part of them corrupt.

Here is a glaſſe for all honeſt true hearted Engliſh-men to preſent the deformities of corruption unto, and to cauſe them to thinke it is high time to enquire what is become of theſe vaſt ſummes of treaſure: what Lord but may juſtly require or demand a juſt account of his Steward? If your Stewards have dealt deceitfully with you, let them know it, if you will not, then know, they will be your Lords, and you their vaſſalls, Therefore in time aſſiſt that Army (all true hearted Engliſh-men) who neither hath, nor yet doe account any thing too deare for the wellfare and ſafety of this nation, nor will proceed, (as generally publiſhed by their Declaration) but to make this a famous and happy Kingdome, in the wayes of true juſtice, then ſhall no Droane live upon the laborious Bee, who now ſwarmes in every mans ground.

And how neceſſary it is with expedition, to have this Kingdome ſetled in the beſt wayes and lawes that can be adviſed; let the moſt judicious judge, then ſhall not any man whomſoever, by any power or authority oppreſſe another: will not this be to let the Lambe lye down with the Lyon and not feare devouring?

But if no law nor juſtice, but what ſhall be bought with money, Then be it known unto all men (who now may purchaſe their liberties and priviledges at an eaſie rate, ſhall as formerly they have been, be ſlaves to corrupt lawes and wills of men.

The totall of all which ſums amounts to ſixteen Millions, ſixteen hundred thouſand pounds of Silver, beſides head money, plate money, and in that way.

VOX

VOX POPVLI;

OR,

The Cry of the Commons againſt Committee-men.

SEEing it is now high time (moſt worthy Senators) that we the Free Commons of this Kingdom, after ſo hard a ſervitude under an unlimited Monarchicall power; So difficult a paſſage towards deliverance and freedom through a red Sea of blood, and ſo many dubious changes in the Wilderneſſe of diſorder and confuſion; ſhould now begin to look after the enjoyment of that good Land (to wit, Peace, Freedom, and Juſtice) promiſed us at the beginning, and for which we have with the expence of our lives and eſtates, ſo earneſtly conteſted with the enemies of our and the Kingdoms Peace.

Was it not unlimited Prerogative, corruptions in Law and Courts of Juſtice, infringement of our Liberties, illegall Taxes, and the like, which was by you declared to be the miſery of the Kingdom, a door and in-let to tyranny and oppreſſion? And was it not that Regall power might be limited by Law, not proportioned by will? that the conſtiturions of our Law might not be deſtroyed, but reduced to their fundamentall purity; that Juſtice might be executed, and we preſerved in our Liberties and Eſtates.

Give us leave then to expoſtulate a little: How comes it to paſſe, that (notwithſtanding all your promiſes made ſo ſolemnly in the preſence of God and the Kingdom) we reap not the harveſt of this promiſing ſeed time? How comes it to paſſe, we beſeech you, that ſuch fair bloſſomes yeeld ſuch ſlender fruit? Whence growes this muttering, nay, we may ſay groaning under, and exclamations againſt oppreſſion, tyranny, and injuſtice in our ſtreets, nay, Courts of (Injuſtice) Juſtice we cannot call them, even at the Parliament door, nay, within the Parliament Houſe? How comes it to paſſe, that ſo many irregular, illegall, and we may ſay, Unparliamentary Votes, Orders, Declarations, and Ordinances, paſſe for currant coyne one day, and counterfeit the next? Whence proceeds this ſpirit of ambition, contention, oppreſſion, and ſedition, which reigns

ſo

ſo powerfully amongſt you? We cannot be ſeduced to believe that ever this proceeds from Parliament Principles; from Principles of Law and Juſtice; but from Principles of Ambition, Uſurpation, Pride, Covetuouſneſſe, and the like, from the power of which Good Lord deliver us, &c.

Did you ſo vehemently declare againſt Prerogative, with intent to deſtroy us by Priviledge? Did you exclaime againſt injuſtice in others, that your ſelves might be ſingular, yea ſuperlatively unjuſt? Were corruptions in the Law paſt cure, ſo that your wils muſt be our ſupreme Law? Was the taking a little of our eſtates illegall in others, but in you juſtice to take all? Is this the end of our labour? The returne of our expectation, the prize we have ſweat ſo much bloud for? Certainly we looked for Peace, but behold Warre; we looked for Juſtice, but behold Oppreſſion; we looked for Liberty, but behold Slavery; and our end is worſe then our beginning.

And now grave Senators, having with ſorrow of heart given you ſome hints of the ſence of our preſent ſufferings, take notice (wee beſeech you) of theſe our deſires, in which we expect ſpeedy ſatisfaction from you.

1. And firſt, wee beſeech you looke unto the Rocke from whence you were hewen; were you not fellow Commonners with us? Were not every one of us as equally, fully, and properly intereſted in the ſafety and welfare, yea government of the Kingdome, as any or all of you, conſidered as Commoners and Subjects? Did not you receive your power from us, for our good; to be accountable to us, by whom you were impowred and intruſted? Have you not your ſelves confeſſed and declared, that all intruſtments are and ought to be for the good of the Truſters? upon this ground we the free Commons, and your fellow-Subjects expect from you the performance and diſcharge of your duty herein, together with the following particulars.

2. Have you not declared that the Law ought to be the rule of the Kings Actions: and muſt it not be of the Parliaments likewiſe? Certainly you have ſometime confeſſed, that they that give Law to others, ought not to be without, or above Law themſeves. Therefore we the free Commons expect, that all un-Parliamentary actions either within or without the Houſe; whether privately, or publiquely; either by the whole, or any particular Member, or any

other by them intruſted, or impowred, be publiquely declared a-gainſt; and that a way be opened for juſt reparation and reliefe a-gainſt all ſuch Arbitrary and exorbitant practiſes.

3. Have you not declared, That no free Commoner ought, or might be diſ-infranchiſed of his libertie, without indictment, and that the fining and impriſoning men without due proceſſe at Law, was a breach upon the Law, and deſtructive to the Subjects liberty? How comes it then to paſſe, that ſince the time of your declaring it to be ſo unjuſt in others, you have ſo frequently uſed it your ſelves? What Priſon is there free? Nay, what Countie or Corporation but hath ſome ſufferers, being impriſoned by the Arbitrary Subject, deſtroying power of your Committees? The miſery whereof we expect ſpeedy redreſſe of; it being your owne declared dutie, and ſutable to law and conſcience; that being no way lawfull in you, which was by you condemned as unlawfull in others.

4. Have you not complained that the Publique ſtocke was converted to private uſes; and that the Kings Favourits ſpent the Kingdomes money? And may not wee the poore Commons juſtly complain now (conſidering the vaſt ſummes of money levied upon us, and extorted from us) of the like, or worſe practiſes? Hath not the Kingdomes Monie been divided, thouſands in a morning? But for what memorable ſervice we know not, unleſſe it were for betraying us, our Cities, Townes, Forts, and the like.

5. Have you not often declared againſt the King for protecting and keeping Delinquents from tryall? How comes it to paſſe then that you your ſelves have protected and abetted ſo many falſe and traiterous Members, under pretence of Priviledge? under correction we conceive, the Kings Prerogative is a much better Plea, then your Priviledge: therefore we expect the ſpeedy ſuſpenſion of all perſons charged with any crime, and that all perſons that have acted to the prejudice of the Kingdome, in endeavouring to foment a new Warre, be brought to condigne puniſhment.

6. That foraſmuch as it is pretended, that (notwithſtanding the vaſt ſummes of Monie that have beene raiſed for the ſervice of the Kingdome) the publique Treaſury is empty, and the State not able without further charge to the Kingdome, (which will occaſion great trouble and diſcontent) to pay the Arreares of the Army: And foraſmuch as it is apparant, that vaſt ſummes of the Kingdoms

money

money yet remaineth in the hands of ſeverall Miniſters of State, as Committee-men, Exciſe-men, Sequeſtrators, and the like, unaccounted for; to the great prejudice of the Kingdome: That therefore the honourable Houſes of Parliament would be pleaſed, by Order, Ordinance, or otherwiſe as to you ſhall ſeeme meet; to command all Committee-men, Exciſe-men, Sequeſtrators, and the like; through whoſe hands the Kingdomes money hath gone; who have not given a juſt accompt; to bring in by ſuch a day, ſuch competent ſummes of money, (according to their Relations, and Employments) as ſhall be ſufficient to pay the Arreares of the Army: which ſummes ſo to remain depoſited, untill ſuch time as they have given a true accompt of the diſpoſure of all moneys by them levyed and received of the Kindgome for the ſervice thereof.

To conclude, we deſire and expect the due execution of Juſtice, and Judgement: That ſatisfaction be given the Army: That all lawfull meanes be uſed for the eſtabliſhment of Peace in theſe Dominions: That our burthens be leſſened, and as ſoone as may be with ſafetie removed: That the Accounts of the Kingdome be perfected: The publique faith, and other publique Debts ſatisfyed: That our Petitions be from time to time freely received, and ſpeedily anſwered: Without which we ſhall not diſ-ingage you of the performance of your truſt; but ſhall be inforced to take ſuch a courſe as Providence, and our preſſing neceſſitie ſhall lay before us, and leave the iſſue thereof to God, who is able to direct you, and protect us in all our undertakings.

There is no end of this matter.